

RADIO STAMPS
DX Party Line – HCJB
January 1990
Program 1

Introduction

Hello, welcome to "Radio Stamps". My name is Neil Carleton and I'm your host for this new feature on HCJB. "Radio Stamps" is a monthly program all about the fun of collecting stamps from around the world on the topic of radio. This is the very first program, and it's a special introduction to the world of radio on stamps. There are dozens of radio subjects you can collect on stamps, and they include radio stations, amateur radio and radio listening, to name just a few. Collecting radio stamps is another great way to enjoy the radio hobby.

On upcoming programs I'll have collecting tips for you, including updates on new stamps from around the world. I'll be telling you about published information on this topic. I'll also have suggestions for you about starting and looking after a collection. Regular features on this program will include descriptions and checklists of stamps you can collect, discussions of radio subjects on stamps, and answers to listener questions. There will also be contests to win radio stamps for your collection.

I hope you'll join me each month, here on HCJB, to explore the world of radio on stamps. I also hope you'll write to me with your comments and news for the program. I'll give you my mailing address at the end of this special feature.

Topical Stamp Collecting

Like shortwave listening or DXing, collecting radio stamps is a lot of fun. I started my collection about ten years ago, right after I bought my first shortwave radio. Since then I've collected a wealth of information about radio stamps to share with you and other collectors. Over the years I've met and corresponded with others around the world who also collect stamps on the topic of radio. It wasn't really a surprise to learn that most collectors of radio stamps are shortwave listeners, DXers and amateur radio operators.

I also discovered the radio hobby is full of collectors. It's not surprising that stamp collecting is another popular interest in the radio hobby.

In fact, stamp collecting is one of the most popular hobbies in the world. It's estimated that almost 200 million people around the globe today are enjoying the adventures of stamp collecting. Almost everything you can imagine is shown on postage stamps, from art to zoology and, of course, even radio. Collecting stamps for the subject of the design, rather than the country of origin, has become a very popular hobby. This specialization is known as "thematic" collecting in some parts of the world, and "topical" collecting in North America.

I started my topical collection with a few stamps that commemorated radio stations I first heard on shortwave, like HCB and Radio Canada International. When I discovered the exciting world of amateur radio, I decided to add ham stamps to my collection. Later, when I learned to recognize marine and aviation radio, I added utility stamps to my collection.

The scope of my collection may not be of interest to you or another radio stamp collector. To others, for example, my collection may be far too broad in its scope. To some, on the other hand, it may be too narrow because it doesn't include space communications or satellites. There are as many topical collections as there are topical collectors. The important point to remember is the scope of your radio stamp collection is entirely up to you and your interests.

What to Collect?

Choosing what to collect is the first decision to make. The many radio subjects on stamp include inventors, morse code, listening to radio, radio at sea and radio stations. They also include mobile radio, amateur radio and radio conferences. As a collector, you can choose from this broad range of subjects, or you may decide to include them all in your collection. Starting with a subject you have a special interest in is a good idea. Upcoming programs will explore the many stamps you can collect in the areas of radio stations, the history of radio, radio equipment and amateur radio.

Like shortwave listening, there are always new radio stamp targets to hunt for. My current DX target is to hear Trans World Radio in Swaziland. My current radio stamp target is to collect a first day cover from Australia, with the commemorative stamp for the 50th anniversary of Radio Australia in 1989.

Like DXing, a stamp collection can be started, stopped and picked up again at any time. When DX conditions are poor, I often turn to my stamp collection. Like DXing, I have a small budget and I know I don't have to spend a fortune to enjoy my stamp interest in the radio hobby.

Radio Stamps Bibliography

As an introduction to the world of radio on stamps, I've prepared a bibliography for you that's available worldwide for return postage. It's a listing of all the published references I know about on radio stamps. It includes a listing of the 32 different radio subjects you can find. Many of these articles, in stamp and radio publications, include checklists of radio stamps you can collect. Other articles were written to help you start a collection of radio stamps.

This bibliography also includes the many radio topics I've written about in my monthly column, called "Radio Stamps." It's published each month in the MESSENGER, the journal of the Canadian International DX Club. My column includes news of radio stamps around the world, checklists of stamps to collect, and many illustrations,

including postage stamps, first day covers and postal cancellations on the topic of radio. It's the only monthly column in the world about radio stamps. Samples copies of the MESSENGER are available from the Canadian International DX Club. The mailing address and ordering details are included in the bibliography.

If you'd like a copy of this bibliography, please send me a business-size, self-addressed envelope with Canadian postage, or international reply coupons. If you live in Canada, I'll need 62 cents in Canadian postage. If you live in the United States, I'll need 65 cents in Canadian postage, or 2 international reply coupons. If you live in another part of the world, I'll need \$1.17 in Canadian postage, or 2 reply coupons. Please mention in your letter that you heard the "Radio Stamps" program here on HCJB. I'll give you my mailing address shortly, after this feature.

Tips on Collecting

The best collecting tip is to decide what radio stamps you actually want to collect. You'll need to make a list. You can do this by reviewing published checklists of radio stamps, or browsing through stamp catalogues. If you're a stamp collector already, you'll be familiar with postage stamp catalogues.

Different catalogues are published around the world. In North America, for example, the Scott postage stamp catalogue is in wide use. In other parts of the world, you may be more familiar with Stanley Gibbons, Michel or Yvert Tellier stamp catalogues. Look in your public library, visit a local stamp dealer, or talk with another collector who has a postage stamp catalogue.

International stamp catalogues are organized by country, and each stamp in the catalogue is given a unique catalogue number. When you make your want list of radio stamps, remember to record the country name, the date of issue and the catalogue number for each stamp. Be sure to include on your list the name of your stamp catalogue. This will make it much easier for you to find the stamp you want from the stock of a stamp dealer. It will also be easier for you to trade or exchange stamps with other collectors.

Another good collecting tip is to visit your local stamp dealer and discuss your collecting interests. See what's available from the dealer's stock. Look for dealers who sell by topic, or arrange a portion of their stock by topic. Advertisements in stamp publications are good sources of information.

My final collecting tip today is to join a local stamp club. You'll have an opportunity to meet other collectors, see their collections and exchange information. After all, collecting radio stamps, like shortwave listening, is really all about people, friendships and international adventures.

If this program sounds like the first radio feature I've ever done, you're absolutely right. I'd be grateful to receive your comments for improvements. If you have questions, write

and I'll try to answer them on air. If you write and need a return reply, please be sure to include a business-sized self-addressed envelope, with the necessary Canadian postage, or international reply coupons.

I'd also be grateful to receive your news for upcoming programs. Your help is needed to create an international network of radio stamp reporters. Details on how you can participate each month are included in my bibliography.

Before I finish, I'd like to say hello to my good friend Bjorn Fransson and his family on the island of Gotland in Sweden. Bjorn is a well known Swedish DXer, and a collector of radio stamps who has provided many collecting tips over the years in our correspondence. Bjorn, I hope you're receiving this program loud and clear on Gotland.

As promised, here's my mailing address. Neil Carleton ... that's spelled N-E-I-L C-A-R-L-E-T-O-N ... Radio Stamps ... Post Office Box 1644 ... the town is Almonte ... spelled A-L-M-O-N-T-E ... Ontario ... O-N-T-A-R-I-O ... the postal code is K0A 1A0 ... Canada. My address again is ...

Until the next time, best wishes for good listening and collecting.